



OFFICE OF THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 1689
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515
PHONE: (928) 871-7436
FAX: (928) 871-7437

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 18, 2010

Mr. Lyle Mann, *Executive Director*
Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board
2643 E. University Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85034

RE: OTHER FORMS OF TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION

Dear Mr. Mann,

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission ("Commission") is established by the Navajo Nation Council in 2006 with the purpose of operating as a "clearinghouse entity to administratively address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation, and to interface with the local, state, and federal governments and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with its plan of operation and applicable laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation" (2 N.N.C. § 921). In 2008, the Navajo Nation Council ("Council") adopted the policies regulating the Commission in which the Council mandated that the Commission "[n]etwork with local, state, national and international groups and advocate for recognition of Navajo human rights" (Plan of Operation, Section II, Paragraph B).

Therefore, while the Council opposed SB1070/HB2162, this letter serves to inform you that the Navajo Nation's other forms of identification, in addition to state issued driver license and identification, are as follows:

1. *Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit*: pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1352(B)(2), the Navajo Nation Highway Safety program is authorized to issue Navajo Nation driver's permit. Under the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Operator's Handbook, Chapter 2, Section 2.5, C, an "employee or appointee of the Navajo Nation of any officially recognized entity of the Navajo Nation"¹ "[s]hall have a valid Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Operator's permit issued by the Department of Highway Safety" to operate a Navajo government vehicle. Attached, as Exhibit "A" is a sample of a Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Operator's permit.
2. *Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood*: pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 701, the "membership of the Navajo Nation shall consist of the following persons: A) All persons of Navajo

¹ Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Operator's Handbook, Chapter 1, Section 1.3 (B), p. 1.

blood whose names appear on the official roll of the Navajo Nation maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; B) Any person who is at least one-fourth degree Navajo blood, but who has not previously been enrolled as a member of the Navajo Nation, is eligible for membership and enrollment; and C) Children born to any enrolled member of the Navajo Nation shall automatically become members of the Navajo Nation and shall be enrolled, provided they are at least one-fourth degree Navajo blood." Attached, as Exhibit "B" is a sample of a Certificate of Navajo Indian Blood.

3. *K'e Clan Identification*: pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 204 (B), the "Diné Customary Law declares and teaches that [i]t is the right and freedom of the people that the system of k'e, based upon the four clans of Kiiyaa'aanii, Todich'iinii, Honagháahnii and Hasht'ishnii and all the descendent clans be taught and preserved". Navajos iterate their paternal and maternal clans along with their paternal and maternal grandparents' maternal clans as their identification. This form of identification has been in the Navajo society since time immemorial.

It is imperative that the Arizona law enforcement officials and agencies recognize the Navajo forms of identification. The incorporation of this information into the training manual is necessary. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at (928) 871-7436.

Sincerely,



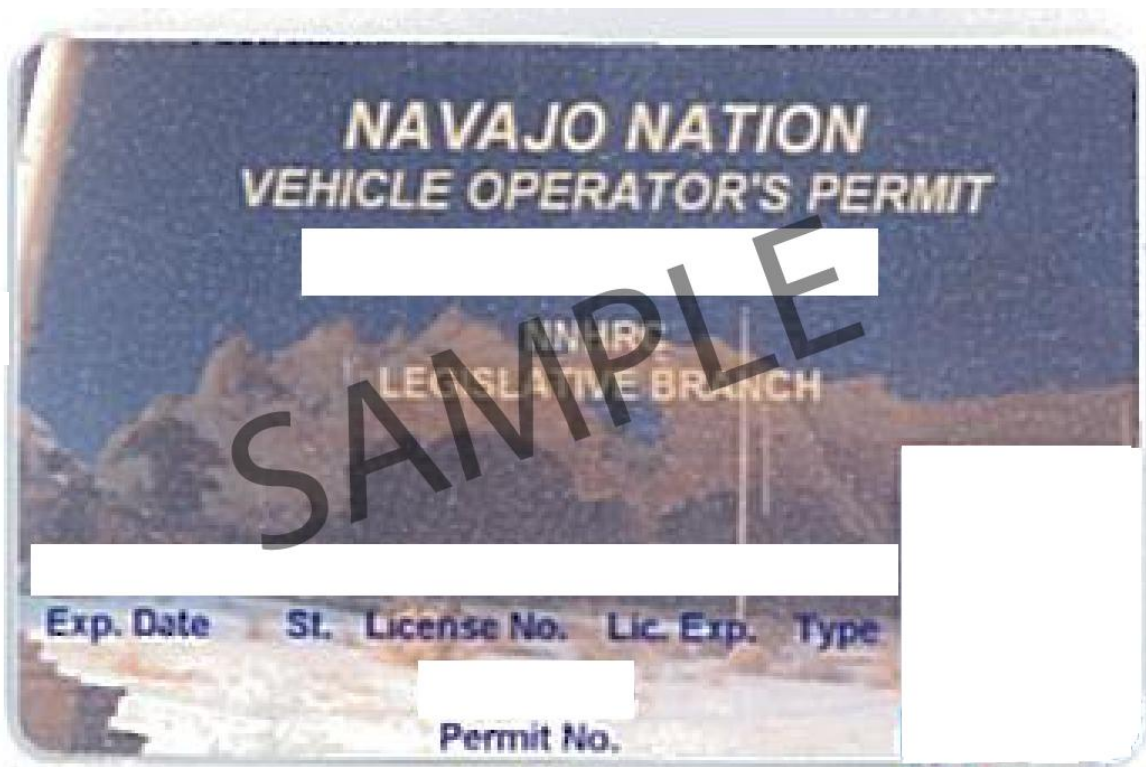
Leonard Gorman, *Executive Director*
Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

ATTACHMENTS

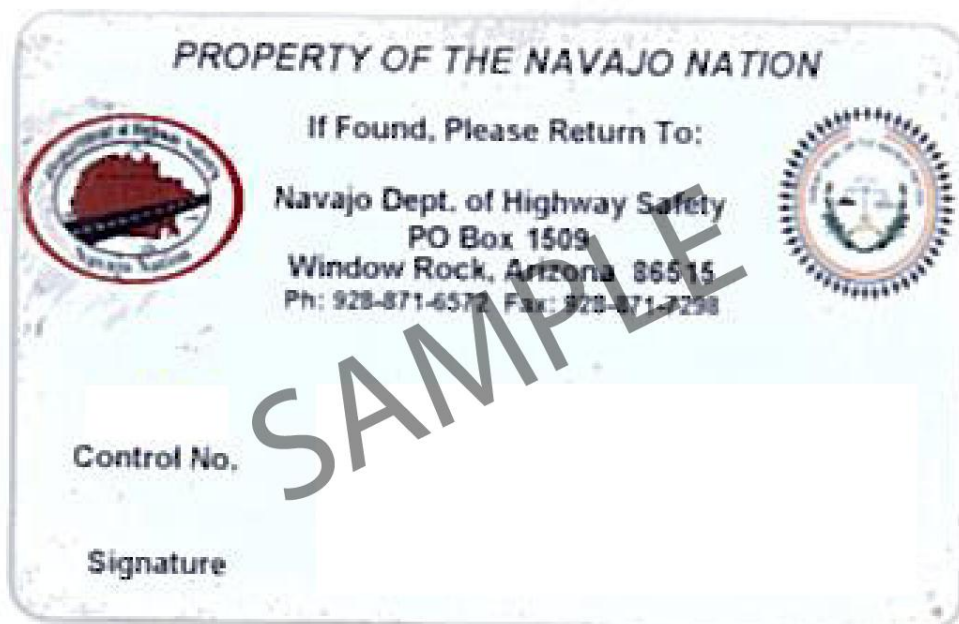
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Exhibit "A"

Front side



Back side





THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

BEN SHELLY
VICE PRESIDENT

UNACCEPTABLE IF ALTERED

CERTIFICATE OF NAVAJO INDIAN BLOOD

PART A (To be used if applicant is enrolled)

XXXX

AGENCY

xx/xx/xx

DATE

I certify that XXXX XXXX is listed on the Navajo Indian Census Roll, dated xx/xx/xx, Which is an official record of this office as being of x/x Degree Navajo Indian blood, with Roll Number, XXX,XXX, Date of Birth xx/xx/xx.

RECORDED:

XXXX XXXX

For/Vital Statistics Manager
Office Assistant/

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL TRIBAL ROLL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

VITAL RECORDS & TRIBAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM
THE NAVAJO NATION ♦ P.O. BOX 3240 ♦ WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515